# U.S. Aide Ousted by Moscow

From News Dispatches

MOSCOW, Sept. 14 — The Soviet government today ordered the expulsion of a U.S. diplomat and announced that an American Peace Corps volunteer arrested on the Iranian border was under investigation as a "border violator."

The Foreign Ministry also reported that Harold M. Koch, a former Roman Catholic priest from Chicago who defected to the Soviets in protest against the Vietnam war, had no wish to see anyone from the American Embassy.

To cap a bad day in Soviet-American relations, the youth newspaper Komsomolskaya Pravda accused the United States of using American tourists in a campaign of "total political espionage."

The diplomat expelled is Donald R. Lesh, 35, who is fluent in Russian and is the Embassy's cultural affairs specialist. He was accused of "activities incompatible with his diplomatic status." The charges were rejected by the U.S. Embassy, which said the Foreign Ministry gave no details to support them.

**Retaliatory Expulsion**

Diplomatic sources said the expulsion was obviously in retaliation for that of Soviet diplomat Valentin A. Revlin from Washington. Revlin was charged with attempting to obtain classified information and left Sept. 7. The usual practice when either country expels a diplomat is for the other to retaliate.

Lesh was to leave Moscow next month in any event on normal rotation home. He is from Sun City, Ariz.

The arrest of Peace Corpsman Thomas R. Dawson, 24, of Annapolis, Md., gave U.S. officials much more concern. He was arrested Sunday by three Soviet guards when he crossed a stream near Astara, Iran, looking for shells, according to a fellow volunteer who was with him but either stayed on or retreated to the Iranian side.

The American Embassy requested Tuesday that Dawson be released immediately, saying that he had walked toward the border "in all innocence." A Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman told newsmen today that Dawson was being held for investigation as a possible "border violator."

U.S. officials in Moscow expressed great concern over Dawson's arrest. (In Washington, State Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey said Dawson's release is "a matter of great importance to the United States.")

One reason for the concern is that the border violation charge recalls the case of Newcomb Mott, the last American to undergo such an investigation. Mott was tried and sentenced to 18 months imprisonment after crossing the Soviet-Norwegian border in September, 1965, and according to the Soviets committed suicide in January while being taken to the place where he was to serve his sentence.

The Komsomolskaya Pravda attack on U.S. tourists warned readers against American visitors asking questions that could provide answers useful to the CIA.

Most of these tourists, it said, may be "innocent or unsuspecting," but "various research centers lure them into their networks and acquire data through them which paid agents cannot obtain."

**Espionage Charged**

The paper said many tourists are given elaborate questionnaires on what to look for here before they leave. It said visiting professors and students were also used in the "espionage campaign" and professors who had alleged come here to collect information for the CIA.

The names as transliterated from the Russian were Robert Madden, Ariane Foureman and Charles Merlock. The report apparently referred to a Mrs. Foureman who teaches French at Ohio State University and who visited Russia in 1964 and 1965. No university affiliation was given for the others.

The Koch case was of a different order. The Foreign Ministry announced Monday that Koch had sought and been granted political asylum. The U.S. Embassy asked the Foreign Ministry for permission to see him and talk with him; the Ministry said today the request had been relayed to Koch and he had no desire to see anyone from the Em-

Koch appeared on Moscow television Tuesday night. His current whereabouts have not been revealed.